

(Photo by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

## Strykers strike silently during the night

Capt. Bill Parsons, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division is briefed by an interpreter on recent activities in a Harbiya neighborhood, in northwestern Baghdad Jan. 2. Coalition and Iraqi security forces are conducting cordon and search missions as part of Operation Arrowstrike III, aimed at improving the security situation in the Iraqi capital.

## First class graduates from new IP training academy in Baqubah

By Maj. Raul Marquez  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq - Approximately 125 Iraqi Police officers assigned to various units in the Baqubah area, graduated from the first Iraqi Police Training Academy in Baqubah, conducted under the guidance of coalition forces from Task Force Blue and the International Police Liaison Officers, Dec 24.

"Officers from the Emergency Ready

Forces, the Quick Reaction Forces, and Baqubah Iraqi Police participated in this two-week long training academy," said Maj. John J. Herrman, Task Force Blue operations officer and a native of La Crosse, Kan. "Those officers are now ready to assume their duties as the rule of law enforcers here in Baqubah."

The training for the IP officers was provided by their own Iraqi instructors and Special Weapons and Tactics team, otherwise known as SWAT, members, said

Herrman.

"Instructors from the Tactical Iraqi Police Academy provided the classroom portion of the training; the range cadre taught weapons handling and maintenance, and SWAT members assisted with the hands-on portion of the training," said Herrman. "We provided oversight through the IPLOs and our Military Police."

Even though the training was only two

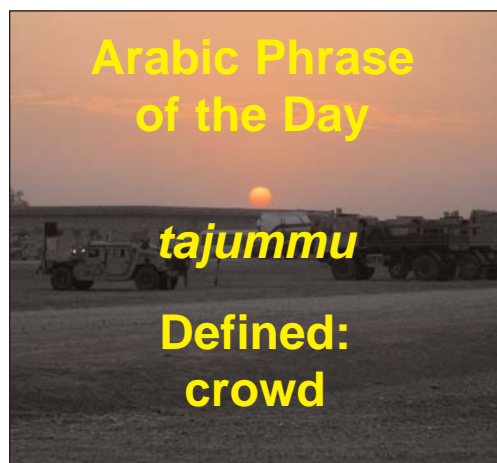
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(Photo by Sgt Jon Cupp, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

## Handing out the goods

Manning, Iowa native Staff Sgt. Jason Blum (right), a cavalry scout and an Bradley Fighting Vehicle commander, and Omaha, Neb. native, Pfc. Daniel Slotemaker, an infantryman, both from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, hand out school supplies to students at the Al Balkess Primary School in Saab Al Bour, Iraq.



## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 57  
Low: 37

Tomorrow

High: 51  
Low: 42

Sunday

High: 56  
Low: 37

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# Iraqis take advantage of new training facility for police

## Grads

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weeks, this training included classes on democratic policing, the Iraqi Constitution, rule of law, weapons safety, proper firing techniques for both AK-47 and pistols, shoot and maneuver, hands-on defensive techniques, dismounted patrolling as a member of a team, mounted patrols, react to improvised explosive devices, first aid, and entering and clearing a building, said

Herrman.

He also stated that during this training, the IPs received their new uniforms and equipment that signifies they are real police officers.

"The training academy will continue providing classes every day through the end of January, and quarterly after that," Herrman said. "They expect to have at least 25 percent of the Baqubah police force trained by the end of the third training cycle."

"For most police officers here, this was their first formal training," he continued. "They have been out on the streets mixing it up for years, never fully understanding the proper way to use a weapon, the rule of law, the constitution they are to support, or how to conduct themselves as a policeman. We hope that the course turns out a more ethically and tactically proficient policeman, able to better enforce the laws of Diyala, and to serve and protect all Iraqis."

"The Iraqi Policemen are some of the bravest people we have ever met," said an American Police Advisor supporting Task Force Blue."

"They risk their lives, and those of their families, on a daily basis trying to bring law and order to the streets of their cities. The training we are providing is designed to save some of those lives and extract a high price from the terrorists and insurgents who choose to attack these officers."

Maj. Gen. Ghassan Adnan Awad Al-Bawi, the Diyala Chief of Police, attended the ceremony, and provided the graduates a motivational speech on the importance of training, regardless of their years of service as police officers.

The ceremony concluded with each IP receiving their uniform patch.



(Photo by Maj. John J. Herrman, Task Force Blue operations officer)

During a training camp at the new IP Training Academy in Baqubah, an Iraqi instructor gives students instruction on how to acquire a target.



**MULTINATIONAL DIVISION - BAGHDAD**  
*Presents:*  
**REV DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
*"A DAY ON...NOT A DAY OFF"*  
*Guest Speaker*

**Jan 15th**

• **6 - 7:30a.m.: Fun Run/Walk**  
Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners  
\*Rally point for the Run/Walk will be on the cement platform next to the Camp Liberty MWR\*

• **6:30 - 8p.m.: Rev Dr. MLK, Jr. Birthday Observance**  
\*Location: Division Chapel (Camp Liberty)



**BG Vincent Brooks**  
(DCG-S)

What do these items have in common?

**Deltoid Protector**



**Combat Earplugs**



**Ballistic Goggles**



They all prevent injury.....

- Deltoid protectors prevent shrapnel wounds
- Combat earplugs prevent hearing loss
- Ballistic goggles prevent blindness

# Iraqi Army heads up search of Bakriya Village

By 1st Lt. Ryan Osterman  
2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Reg.

BAGHDAD - A 'cordon and knock' operation in Bakriya Village put Iraqi Army troops in the lead, gaining them tactical expertise as they assume greater control of a western portion of the Iraqi capital.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 3rd

Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division spearheaded mission planning and execution Dec. 12, while receiving guidance from leaders and Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"(The) Iraqi Army demonstrates a genuine desire to learn from U.S. Soldiers. They are eager to conduct operations in

sector and seem to be committed to making Iraq a safer place," said 1st Lt. Erik Klapmeier, a platoon leader with Company C.

Prior to the mission, U.S. Soldiers instructed Iraqi Army troops on techniques used to enter and search a building. With new recruits arriving daily, the experience level for troops in the Iraqi Army varies. The vast majority were knowledgeable and proficient in the tasks trained, although some were being exposed to these concepts for the first time.

The training allowed the Iraqi Army to see U.S. Soldiers perform tasks and then to mimic their actions. While Soldiers were rehearsing, Iraqi Army platoon leaders were planning the upcoming mission with advice from their U.S. counterparts.

During the search, Iraqi Army leaders were in command. They maintained control of their troops providing perimeter security while searching houses within the village.

U.S. troops were attached to each Iraqi Army element to boost their confidence and ensure mission completion.

"Watching the Iraqi Army conduct operations gives our Soldiers confidence that soon they will be able to take a step back and let the Iraqis take control of their country," said Sgt. Chris Schmidt, a gunner in Company C.



(U.S. Army photo)

Pfc. Russell Pattison works with an Iraqi troop from 1st Bn., 3rd Bde., 6th Iraqi Army Div. as they search a house during a joint operation in Baghdad.

## Keeping an eye out

Spc. Michael Hurd, a native of Rifle, Colo., stares out over the town of Tahirr, Iraq providing security for the first meeting of the Jurf as Sakhr (city council) Dec. 20. Hurd is a member of 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th BCT (Abn), 25th Infantry Division.



(Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler, 4-25 Inf. Public Affairs)



# Oklahoma radioman provides protection in Baghdad

By Spc. Shea Butler  
7th MPAD

BAGHDAD - He is used to spending the holiday season tailgating around a bonfire with friends and family, where every breath is seen in the Oklahoma winter sky. However, this year he spent the days leading up to the holiday season with thick glue-like mud caked on his boots and a heavy radio strapped to his back as he searched homes in Baghdad.

Spc. Tyler Knight with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, along with the rest of his company spent the few days prior to Christmas looking through Baghdad homes for anti-Iraqi forces and weapons.

Knight wasn't forced to be here. He chose it. He signed a four-year contract to join the Army in August 2004, during a time of war.

"It sounds cheesy, but I joined because I knew either we were going to bring the fight to them or they were going to bring it to us," Knight said. "I want to protect my family from having to see war. That's just the truth."

Though he missed his family during the holidays he was happy he made it back to camp before Christmas Day so he could call and e-mail his family, Knight said.

"I know I can't be with my family right now, but these guys are close enough," the 21-year-old explained. "There are so many different personalities, but when it comes

down to it, I know they have my back."

Knight's role during missions is to stay aware of the battlefield so he can report all activity to higher command. He is the platoon's radio transmission operator.

"We report everything that happens in our area from caches to enemy fire," said Knight, a native of Ponca City, Okla.

"The best part of my job is when we come across large caches and stuff like that," Knight said. "It makes me feel successful when we find weapons. I feel like we are accomplishing something."

Not every mission finds a large cache find, but intelligence is always gathered.

"The worst part of the job is waiting," Knight said. "We are trained for action. We are at our best when disaster hits. When we don't find anything, anxiety sets in and we are waiting for the worst."

When Knight isn't deployed or actively engaged in Army duties you can usually find him fishing. The youngest of three brothers, Knight said he is looking forward to going on mid-tour leave soon to get back to what he enjoys the most, the three 'f's' - family, friends and fishing.

When he heads back to Oklahoma for leave he will also get to meet the newest addition to his family for the first time, a new nephew, Knight said.

Knight wasn't the first in his family to live the military life. His grandfather is a Korean War veteran. Knight said he hopes to make his grandfather proud with his own military career.

Though the war now has much more

media coverage than the Korean War, Knight doesn't want his family to know every detail. He said it is more important for America to know that the war is being taken care of by professional people, like him, who want to be here.



(Photo by Spc. Shea Butler, 7th MPAD)

**Spc. Tyler Knight, 3rd Stryker BCT, carries extra weight of the radio on his back while pulling security for his buddies as they search a home in Baghdad for anti-Iraqi forces.**

## TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
<b>AFN   sports</b>	NFL Live	College Gamenight	Inside the NFL		ESPNNews	The Sports List	The Hot list
<b>AFN   prime ATLANTIC</b>	Headline News	ATS/Regional News	Deal or No Deal		Invasion		Grey's Anatomy
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